

PRESS RELEASE

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HARRISON COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT SENTENCED ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that Harrison County insurance agent, Shawn Edwin Linger was sentenced earlier this month on one felony count of embezzlement.

Linger, of Fairmont, admitted in April to taking over \$18,000 in premium payments made to his employer, Jim Lively Insurance, Inc. of Clarksburg. The premium payments that represented numerous policy holders were replaced by Jim Lively Insurance, Inc. so that no individual policy holder suffered losses.

“It is critical that we continue to protect West Virginia consumers and employers against individuals who seek to profit illegally from the business of insurance,” Cline said. “We appreciate the willingness of law enforcement and county prosecuting attorneys to work with the Fraud Division in our efforts to investigate and successfully prosecute insurance crimes”.

Linger was sentenced July 6, 2006 to one (1) to ten (10) years in prison; however, the sentence was suspended and Linger was placed on supervised probation for five (5) years. A civil action is currently pending against Mr. Linger; restitution will be determined once the civil action is settled.

Investigation and prosecution in this case has been a joint effort with Harrison County Prosecutor's Office and the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected insurance fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 1-800-779-6853.